



## Become Your Own Boss

Even with the lowest unemployment rate since [June 2001](#), some Missourians continue to be faced with the prospect of long-term unemployment. Missouri has many resources to help the long-term unemployed beat joblessness by becoming entrepreneurs — a win-win for the Missouri economy.

The [Missouri Business Portal](#) offers a variety of resources aimed at helping would-be entrepreneurs start, grow and manage a business. The Show-Me State also offers a wealth of [support resources](#) designed to support entrepreneurs and develop opportunities for growth.

But how do you start? Do you have an idea or an opportunity? [Missouri Source Link](#) can help you decide with the following six recommended steps for a successful startup.

- Evaluate your idea: Take the time to find out if your idea is viable. Is there a market? Are there competitors?
- Take a class: Basic “starting a business” classes cover finance, legal structure, marketing, planning, and other topics to get you off to a good start.
- Meet with a counselor: After you take a startup class, meeting with a counselor can help you clarify your ideas and your plans.
- Plan your business: A good business plan that keeps you focused can mean the difference between success and failure.
- Get registrations, licenses and permits: You will need to go through several steps to make sure your business is registered appropriately.
- Find a business location: Location, location, location...pick the right one!

Taking these steps could provide you with the opportunity to be your own boss.



For additional information about Missouri Division of Workforce Development services, contact a Missouri Job Center near you. Locations and additional information are available at [jobs.mo.gov](http://jobs.mo.gov) or 1-888-728-JOBS (5627).



Missouri Division of Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Missouri TTY users can call (800) 735-2966 or dial 7-1-1.

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Check out these additional resources to learn more about all aspects of starting and growing a business.

[Entrepreneurship.org](http://Entrepreneurship.org) is designed with entrepreneurs in mind. This resource center allows you to find materials to grow great ideas.

[The Kauffman Founder's School](http://TheKauffmanFounder'sSchool) is an online, educational resource dedicated to entrepreneurship.

Get caffeinated on entrepreneurship with [1 Million Cups](http://1MillionCups), a free, weekly national program designed to educate, engage, and connect entrepreneurs. Developed by the Kauffman Foundation, 1MC is based on the notion that entrepreneurs discover solutions and network over a million cups of coffee. Find a meeting near you in [Columbia](http://Columbia), [Kansas City](http://KansasCity) and [St. Louis](http://StLouis).

[The Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers](http://TheMissouriProcurementTechnicalAssistanceCenters) (MO PTAC) assist businesses — including small, disadvantaged and women owned firms — in obtaining federal, state and local government contracts.



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